

Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership Balance Plan

Please read the Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan Guidance prior to completing this form

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)
(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME <i>State the legal name of the FAC</i>
Rio Grande Natural Area Commission (Commission)
(2) AUTHORITY <i>Identify the authority for establishing the FAC</i>
The Commission is an advisory committee established under Section 4 of the Rio Grande Natural Area Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 460rrr-2), and Section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as amended (43 U.S.C. 1739). The Commission is also established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
(3) MISSION/FUNCTION <i>Describe the mission/function of the FAC</i>
The Commission provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) with respect to the Rio Grande Natural Area (Natural Area) and on matters concerning the preparation and implementation of a management plan relating to non-Federal land in the Natural Area, as required by the Act.
(4) POINTS OF VIEW <i>Based on understanding the purpose of the FAC,</i> <i>(a) describe the process that will be used to ensure the committee is balanced, and identify the categories (e.g. individual expertise or represented interests) from which candidates will be considered;</i> <i>(b) consider indentifying an anticipated relative distribution of candidates across the categories; and</i> <i>(c) explain how a determination was made to appoint any individuals as Special Government Employees or Representative members</i>
As outlined in the Act, the Commission is comprised of nine members. One member shall represent the BLM's Colorado State Director and one member shall represent the Manager of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. Three members shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Governor of Colorado (representing the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Colorado Division of Water Resources, and the Rio Grande Water Conservation District). Four members shall represent the general public who are citizens of the local region and have knowledge and expertise in the fields of interests related to the preservation, restoration, and use of the Natural Area. There will be no special government employees on the Council because all members are either ex officio members or are appointed to represent an interest.
(5) OTHER BALANCE FACTORS <i>List any other factors your agency identifies as important in achieving a balanced FAC</i>
Not applicable
(6) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS <i>Summarize the process intended to be used to identify candidates for the FAC, key resources expected to be tapped to identify candidates and the key persons (by position, not name) who will evaluate FAC balance. The summary should:</i> <i>(a) describe the process</i> <i>(b) identify the agency key staff involved (by position, not name)</i>

<p>(c) <i>briefly describe how FAC vacancies, if any, will be handled by the agency; and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>state the membership term limit of FAC members, if applicable</i></p>
<p>In order to obtain members, the Comission announces a 45-day open call for nominations period in the Federal Register. During the open period, the BLM Colorado State Office sends a news release to all major media outlets throughout the state to solicit nominations. The call for nominations is also posted on the BLM-Colorado and Natural Area websites. The Governor of Colorado is also consulted.</p> <p>The Designated Federal Official selects the nominees. The recommendations are forwarded to the Colorado State Director and Governor of Colorado for concurrence. The recommendations are then forwarded to the BLM Director, before being sent on to the Department of the Interior (DOI) and DOI White House Liaison for vetting and approval. Commission members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.</p> <p>According to 43 CFR 1784, "A vacancy occurring by reason of removal, resignation, death, or departure from elected office shall be filled for the balance of the vacating member's term using the same method by which the original appointment was made."</p> <p>Excluding the ex officio members, all Commission members serve 5-year terms, and can be re-nominated to serve additional 5-year terms.</p>
<p>(7) SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE</p> <p><i>Subcommittees subject to FACA* should either state that the process for determining FAC member balance on subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent FAC, or describe how it is different</i></p> <p><i>*This is relevant to those agencies that require their subcommittees to follow all FACA requirements.</i></p>
<p>Subcommittees are not subject to FACA because they are not providing advice directly to a Federal Officer of the Department of the Interior. All advice or work products go directly to the parent Committee for review, consideration and deliberation at a FAC meeting before being submitted to the Department of the Interior through the DFO.</p>
<p>(8) OTHER</p> <p><i>Provide any additional information that supports the balance of the FAC</i></p>
<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>(9) DATE PREPARED/UPDATED</p> <p><i>Insert the actual date the Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared, along with the date(s) the Plan is updated</i></p>
<p>May 3, 2012</p>